

# **NEWTON YOUTH COMMISSION Meeting**

**September 5, 2007 MINUTES**  
**Location: Newton City Hall Cafeteria**

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**Present:** Anthony Bibbo, Joe DeVito (Chair), Donna Gordon, Matt Green, Peter Harrington, Terance Sack, Robert Staulo

**Regrets:** Richard Dyer, Joanne Kazarian, Lisa Langone, Officer Jim O'Doughlin, Stephanie Pelkowsky, Stephen Ross

**Staff:** Beverly Droz, Director, Human and Volunteer Services

**Guests:** Greg Kelley, John Staulo, Theresa Staulo, Kirsten Tuohy

## **Introductions**

Students Greg Kelley and Theresa Staulo were welcomed. Greg had attended several meetings last spring. NNSW wrestling coach John Staulo and physical education teacher Kirsten Tuohy were also welcomed. Kirsten had also attended spring meetings and John has been helping Bev with NewtonSERVES each year.

**Motion to approve minutes of June 20, 2007 was passed.**

## **Motion to accept Treasurer's report was passed:**

The balance for Youth Commission's Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Operating Budget is \$2500.00. There have been no expenses yet. The YC revolving account balance is \$468.12

## **Youth Foundation Sub-Committee:**

Joe spoke to Alderman Vicky Danberg during the summer and will have more to report at next meeting.

## **Nominations:**

A motion was made and passed to appoint 2 new students for the Advisory Board Council from NNHS (Greg Kelley, Theresa Staulo) and to re-appoint 2 NSHS students (Kira Mascho, Katie Sanders). It was noted that we need to do more outreach to get more students.

A motion was made and passed to appoint 3 new Advisory Board adult members: John Staulo, Sharon Stout, and Kirsten Touhy.

## **Programs:**

### Freedom from Chemical Dependency:

The Youth Commission has sponsored it for the past 3 years during spring at each high school at a cost of approximately \$1500. We will decide whether to do so again in the spring of 2008.

### Bullying Prevention:

Bev reported on an anti-bullying initiative in Newton Public Schools in an effort to change the culture. The contact person is Gwen Smith. The program is using a systematic approach.

- Rules of anti-bullying posted all over Elementary Schools with a need to change the culture and behavior of students.
- Open circle curriculum: ex: before recess a teacher will reinforce the anti bullying rules and then after recess, bring it up in the classroom.
- All teachers are trained

- Middle School - all teachers were trained last year and this year they are training Middle School level students.
- It is integrated within the High SchoolsqMVP programs where high school students are trained as leaders and go into the Middle Schools.

Donna said all 8<sup>th</sup> graders are exposed to MVP program.

Greg said that MVP students come into each 8<sup>th</sup> grade classroom. Greg will be MVP this year.

#### Internet Safety:

- Joe had spoken to Newton Police in the spring. They are starting a program with Officer Spirito.
- Kirsten said a program was offered to parents via the District Attorney's office.
- There was discussion that it would be good to promote a program for middle school parents separately from middle school kids.
- Donna will see Chris Fortunato of Teen Reach and ask him, since he's worked on it.
- Matt suggested other ways to outreach rather than a program to a limited audience and to try to think outside the box. Maybe we run a tag line on New TV. Students can help create graphics. Peter suggested New TV could tape a seminar starting with our FCS seminar sponsored by the Youth Commission. Peter will contact New TV to discuss.
- Greg and Theresa said students don't watch New TV and they suggested the student newspapers.

#### Fundraising and other ideas:

Matt suggested we come up with a list of events where Youth Commission students could sell water bottles, etc.

There was discussion of fundraising for YC and putting the funds in our revolving account.

Discussion included the possibilities of raising money through businesses, an event, a mailing.

Look at the calendar of events at the next Youth Commission meeting.

There was discussion of FCD effectiveness. Kirsten said it is not reaching enough students. Bob said if we had videos of the seminar it can be shown to a wider student audience. The students agreed it could be shown in libraries. Tony said the videos could be used for training. There may be an issue of FCD not wanting it to be taped.

Tony mentioned that many years ago there used to be a Youth Commission all day symposium run at Lasell College with many speakers and attendees who got credit for attending.

#### Autumn Invatation:

Bev gave a brief overview that students had been away over the summer but her office had sent out the solicitation letters. We decided to have an Autumn Invasion planning meeting on Tuesday, Sept 18<sup>th</sup> at 7pm if the students are available to attend.

Donna will contact Ana's Tacqueria and Baker's Best. Theresa and Greg are both in singing groups and can contact bands and performers in their high school. Bev knows that Kira and Katie will do the same at Newton South. Bev will send an email to students that they can use as a basis for band solicitation.

**Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.**

**The next meeting will be Wednesday, OCTOBER 3 at 7:00pm in the City Hall cafeteria.**